

# STOP THE INVASION- REPORT THIS PEST

## Firetree

Maui County Priority Pest for Molokai:

**Firetree (*Morella faya*)** is a noxious weed that has invaded pastures and wild areas of Maui, Hawaii, Kauai, and Oahu, where it creates dense stands that crowd out native plants. This fast growing tree produces prolific numbers of red to purple seeds that are dispersed by birds and pigs.

### Identification

**Height-** 3-4 m (12-15 ft)

**Flowers-** caterpillar-shaped and drooping

**Fruit-** small red to deep purple berries; noticeable from a distance

**Leaves-** alternate growth pattern, dark green, shiny, smooth surfaced; 5-10 cm (2-4 in) long; aromatic



Firetree with flowers and immature fruit



Detail of firetree fruits



Firetree's red fruits are obvious amongst roadside weeds

### Don't mistake firetree for these look-alikes:



**Cape pittosporum (*Pittosporum viridiflorum*)** also has prominent red berries and aromatic leaves.

**Bark-** light grey, covered with distinctive dots (lenticels)

**Flowers-** yellow to green STAR SHAPED; 10-12 mm (2/5-1/2 in) wide

**Fruit-** yellow to brown capsules that split open to expose sticky red fruit



**A'ali'i (*Dodonaea viscosa*)** is a Hawaiian native that can be confused for firetree from a distance because of the red coloration of its seed pods. Unlike the firetree, the seeds of the a'ali'i are contained in a papery husk that rattle when shaken.

A'ali'i seed detail



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